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Letter dated 3 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to write to you in connection with the forthcoming consideration in the Security Council of the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP).

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia highly appreciates the contribution UNMOP has made to the maintenance of stability, regime of security, strengthening of confidence and the creation of conditions for reaching a solution to the disputed issue of Prevlaka.

Following the democratic changes, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has placed special emphasis on the normalization and promotion of relations with neighbouring countries, particularly the former Yugoslav republics, convinced that, by doing so, it will render a most direct contribution to the strengthening of regional stability. In that context, I would like to point out that Yugoslavia continues to be ready to work alongside its neighbours on the solution of all problems. My Government believes that conditions do exist for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia to arrive, through direct negotiations, at a satisfactory solution with full respect for the interests of both sides.

To further that end, ever since the extension of the last mandate of UNMOP, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has actively engaged in the quest for a solution to the disputed issue of Prevlaka. Regardless of differences in views, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to believe that gradualism, strengthening of confidence and the taking of specific steps aimed at creating necessary conditions and an atmosphere conducive to reaching a final agreement on the determination of land, water and sea borders between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia is the best way to proceed.

Bearing in mind that the process requires some time, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects that, proceeding from its primary responsibility for safeguarding peace and security, the Security Council will decide to extend the mandate of UNMOP for another period of six months.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Mladenovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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